



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 S Center Ave, Rm 203

Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, December 14, 2015 @ 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:30 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), and Blane Poulson were present. Also in attendance were Gerry Kokkonen, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Michelle Staff, Planning & Zoning Department. Mariah Hadler was absent.

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Approval of the December Agenda:

The December agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Margaret Burlingham suggested moving item # 11 in front of item # 8. The commission agreed to the change.

5. Approval of the November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Steve Nass made a motion to approve the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Steve Punsel's Easement:

The commission talked about the easement program with Steve Punsel answering any questions he asked to the best of their knowledge at this time.

9. Discussion on Rodell Lea's Easement Compliance:

Margaret Burlingham will be contacting Rodell Lea in regard to the building that has yet to move. It is in the process but not enough progress has been made to satisfy terms of the easement.

10. Discussion on Dale Neupert's Easement Compliance:

Margaret Burlingham informed the commission that Neupert has rescinded his land contract with Skalitsky and the quit claim deed has been recorded. This item will be removed from the agenda.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Burlingham Donated Easement:

Burlingham's easement has been accepted by the county board and been recorded with register of deeds.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications:

a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo

Gerry Kokkonen has met with Greg Wilke and spoken to NRCS multiple times. Gerry Kokkonen told the commission that Greg Wilke is in the process of completing everything that NRCS has asked of him.

b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford

See item # 15.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Greg Wilke's Re-Appraisal:

Margaret Burlingham contacted Senator Tammy Baldwin's office in regard to NRCS's slow response and ever changing new requirements causing our appraisals to expire. Margaret Burlingham will keep the commission posted as to Senator Tammy Baldwin's response.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cliff Haberman's Re-Appraisal:

See item #13.

15. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:

Gerry Kokkonen sent Cliff Haberman's baseline to NRCS and is waiting to hear back. Michelle Staff informed the commission that Fischer Ln is being vacated by the Township of Waterloo on the Haberman property.

16. Discussion on the 2016 Budget:

Nothing new at this time. This item will be removed from the agenda.

17. Discussion on Strengthening Agricultural Enterprise Areas:

Nothing new at this time. This item will be removed from the agenda.

18. Discussion on Future Events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:

Walt Christensen attended the Winter Farmers Market in Fort Atkinson and his observation is that people are enthusiastic about Farmland Preservation.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Items # 8 & 9, 12 - 15. Annual Commission Brainstorming, adding language to the application in regard to multiple appraisals if the landowner is lax.

20. Next Scheduled Meeting:

January 11, 2016 @ 12:30 pm in Room 203.

21. Adjournment:

Walt Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 2:10 pm, Steve Nass seconded. Motion carried 4/0.